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# RON TUSLER

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 3<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Mark Hogan  
Secretary, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation  
201 W. Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Hogan,

I give my highest support and recommendation for a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Idle Sites Grant for the Village of Kimberly. I am proud to represent the Village of Kimberly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District. I know the people who live there are proud of their heritage and would like to use the land for the benefit of the community.

In 2008, the New Page Paper Mill in Kimberly closed, leaving hundreds of workers without a job. At the time, the site had a property value of about \$40 million. Though the community has moved forward, efforts are still underway to restore the land to usable fashion.

An Idle Sites Grant for the Village of Kimberly will bring new life into the area and revitalize this growing community. Kimberly is located in Outagamie County, which according to UW Extension is projected to become Wisconsin's fifth largest county (overtaking Racine) and is in the top ten growing Wisconsin counties according to 2010-2014 American Community Survey data.<sup>1</sup> Growth in Outagamie and neighboring Calumet Counties shows the merit in investing in the Kimberly project. The Village's proposal includes repurposing a former mill building into a restaurant along the Fox River, a public outlook of the riverfront, completing a multi-use community trail, and continuing demolition and refurbishment of the old mill site. This plan will increase river access for all to enjoy, restore a significant historical structure, and accommodate future business and community growth.

The proposed development is important to the Village of Kimberly and the surrounding communities. I give my unwavering support for this plan. Thank you for your consideration for

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<sup>1</sup> David Egan-Robertson, WISCONSIN'S FUTURE POPULATION: PROJECTIONS FOR THE STATE, ITS COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, 2010 - 2040, 20 (2013), available at [https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/agingfriendlycommunities/files/2014/08/2013-Egan-Robertson\\_Wisconsin-Future-Population.pdf](https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/agingfriendlycommunities/files/2014/08/2013-Egan-Robertson_Wisconsin-Future-Population.pdf); see also WISCONSIN POPULATION GROWTH RATE COUNTY RANK, USA.com, available at <http://www.usa.com/rank/wisconsin-state--population-growth-rate--county-rank.htm?hl=Outagamie&hlst=WI&yr=9000>.

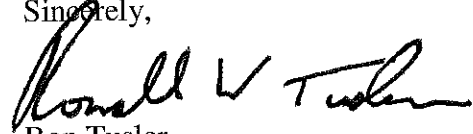
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granting the Wisconsin Development Corporation Idle Site Grant to the Village of Kimberly.  
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald W. Tusler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "W".

Ron Tusler

State Representative

Third Assembly District

Wisconsin State Assembly